

REMARKS

Claims 12-16 and 20 are all the claims pending in the present application, claims 1-11 and 17-19 having been canceled by this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant intends to pursue the subject matter recited in claims 1-11 and 17-19 in a continuation application.

Initially, Applicant apologizes for the inconvenience caused by submission of the Amendment dated September 8, 2003, without signature. A signed copy of the Amendment dated September 8, 2003, is submitted herewith for entry and consideration.

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has provided a detailed action on the merits notwithstanding the omitted signature noted above. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 12-16 and 20 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are allowed, and that the present application is currently in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 858-509-4007 if it is believed that a discussion may advance the prosecution of this case.

Applicant believes that no fee is required at this time. Please apply any charges or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2212.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

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By



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